

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/918,681

Examiner

Shawki S. Ismail

Applicant(s)

RODERICK ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on December 5, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 69, 11-20 re-numbered 1-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINERS AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and /or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Terrence L. Wong (Reg. No. 55,741) on March 3, 2006.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1, 7, 20 and 21 have been replaced with the following amended claims 1, 7, 20 and 21

1. (currently amended) An interface for facilitating browsing of an indexed collection of electronic content, comprising:

~~means for~~ determining a current location within an index associated with the indexed collection of electronic content while browsing the indexed collection of electronic content;

a non-visual display device for displaying information identifying the current location;

a location display resolution controlling device for controlling the resolution with which the information identifying the current location is displayed by the non-visual display device; and

a non-visual resolution feedback device for providing non-visual feedback representative of a current resolution with which the information identifying the current location that is currently being displayed by the non-visual display device;

wherein the non-visual device display further comprises a haptic display device;
and

wherein the haptic display device further comprises identifying individual records by providing a distinct haptic feedback for each record while navigating through the records in the indexed collection of electronic content.

7. (currently amended) An interface as in claim 1, further comprising a browsing device for controlling the current location within the ~~index~~ indexed collection of electronic content.

19. (currently amended) A method for facilitating browsing of an indexed collection of electronic content, comprising the steps of:

determining a current location within an index associated with the indexed collection of electronic content while browsing the indexed collection of electronic content;

displaying information identifying the current location with a non-visual display device;

controlling the resolution with which the information identifying the current location is displayed by the non-visual display device with a location display resolution controlling device; ~~and~~

providing non-visual feedback representative of a current resolution with which the information identifying the current location that is currently being displayed by the non-visual display device with a non-visual resolution feedback device;

wherein the non-visual device display further comprises a haptic display device;
and

wherein the haptic display device further comprises identifying individual records by providing a distinct haptic feedback for each record while navigating through the records in the indexed collection of electronic content.

20. (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium or media on which is stored one or more computer programs for providing an interface for facilitating browsing of an indexed collection of electronic content, the one or more computer programs comprising:

instruction for determining a current location within an index associated with the indexed collection of electronic content while browsing the indexed collection of electronic content;

instructions for displaying information identifying the current location with a non-visual display device;

instructions for controlling the resolution with which the information identifying the current location is displayed by the non-visual display device with a location display resolution controlling device; and

instructions for providing non-visual feedback representative of a current resolution with which the information identifying the current location that is currently

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being displayed by the non-visual display device with a non-visual resolution feedback device;

wherein the non-visual device display further comprises a haptic display device;

and

wherein the haptic display device further comprises identifying individual records by providing a distinct haptic feedback for each record while navigating through the records in the indexed collection of electronic content.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

Claims 1-2, 6-9 and 11-20 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The examiner has found that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest or render obvious a system, method and computer readable storage medium for facilitating browsing of an indexed collection of electronic content. The major difference in the independent claims not found in the prior art of record is that the displayed information identifying the current location of a record is displayed using a non-visual (haptic) display device. Furthermore, the haptic display device comprises identifying individual records by providing a distinct haptic feedback for each record while navigating through the records in the indexed collection of electronic content as set forth in the specification and recited in the independent claims 1, 19 and 20.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawki S Ismail whose telephone number is 571-272-3985. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shawki Ismail
Patent Examiner
March 6, 2006



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER